DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 106 807 CS 001 858

TITLE PREP [Pre-Discharge Education Program], Longview Community College-Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri.
INSTITUTION Longview Community Coll., Lee's Summit, Mo.
PUB DATE 74
NOTE 8p.; See CS 001 934 for "Effective Reading Programs: Summaries of 222 Selected Programs"

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.76 HC-$1.58 PLUS POSTAGE
DESCRIPTORS *Effective Teaching; High School Equivalency Programs; Language Skills; Mathematics Instruction; Military Personnel; Noncredit Courses; Postsecondary Education; *Reading Instruction; *Reading Programs; *Reading Skills; *Study Skills
IDENTIFIERS *Effective Reading Programs; Right to Read

ABSTRACT

One of the programs included in "Effective Reading Programs...," the Pre-Discharge Education Program (PREP), annually serving 100 Air Force personnel who want to refresh their skills before entering college or to obtain a state certificate of high school equivalency, offers noncredit preparatory training to service personnel. Begun in 1972, the program offers courses that encompass reading, college preparatory writing, math-algebra, and study skills, and also provides assistance to students in determining their aptitudes and vocational interests. When students enter the reading courses, they are tested to determine reading speed and rate of comprehension. Each student is assigned individual work in appropriate commercial reading programs to increase skills in reading for ideas, interpreting written materials, and taking tests. Written work is assigned to improve the student's vocabulary, spelling, dictionary use, and pronunciation. Instructors provide students with continuous feedback at each session, emphasizing success rather than penalizing failures. The program is offered three times a year in three-month sessions. (TO/AIR)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

LONGVIEW
Community College
500 Longview Rd./Lee's Summit, Mo. 64063/(816) 763-7777

ED106807

PREP: Longview Community College-Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base

The Pre-discharge Education program is designed to help service personnel who have served more than 180 consecutive days active duty to continue their education. This is a non-credit preparatory training program. Service personnel whose discharge or reenlistment date is approaching and those who do not have high school diplomas,are sent letters advising them of this Veterans Administration funded program. The course also offers an advanced student the opportunity to study for the College Level Equivalency Test (CLEP).

The program, taught by Longview Community College faculty, offers courses in the following subject areas: reading, college preparatory writing, math-algebra, and study skills, and also provides assistance to students in determining their aptitudes and vocational interests. All courses are held during the day or early evening hours and released time from duty is arranged for many students. Students devote four hours per week in classroom and individual laboratory instruction for each course. This program is offered three times a year in three month sessions.

The Veterans Administration pays for all ocsts of tuition. Books are made available to the student at no additional cost. Utilization of PREP through the G.I. bill does not deduct from normal Veterans Administration educational benefits.

cs col 858

Program Objectives and Related Activities

1. To motivate participants to learn required skills. The activities related to this objective include continuous individual and group counseling, and instructional style which de-emphasizes punishment or failure.

2. To assess each participant's educational and vocational interest status and to prescribe specific learning objectives.

   A comprehensive assessment battery of skill levels are administered and the findings interpreted to participants. Learning objectives, in turn, are prescribed. Follow-up testing is done and surveys, as well, to determine if individual program goals have been attained.

Upon completion of initial recruitment efforts, program applicants are assessed by the following tests:

Reading Test - Triggs Diagnostic Reading Test Form A;
Nelson-Denny Form C

Writing Test - McGraw-Hill Pre-Test

Math Test - McGraw-Hill Pre-Test

College Prep Study Skills - Mc-Graw-Hill Pre-Test

Upon completion of the appropriate courses the following evaluation tools are utilized:

Reading Test - Triggs Diagnostic Reading Test Form B;
Nelson-Denny Form D

Writing Test - McGraw-Hill Post Test

Math Test - McGraw-Hill Post Test

College Prep Study Skills - McGraw-Hill Post Test

3. To provide vocational counseling to participants who have not clarified their vocational interest.

   Initially, the participants are assessed, through counseling interviews, regarding the clarity of their work interests. The Psychology and Career Previews course then serves as the basis for assisting students in the decision making process.

4. To assist in the development of study skills.

   The students who are weak in specific study skills and related habits receive assistance in the College Prep Study Skills course. This includes practice in taking lecture and textbook notes; techniques of taking examinations; and, generally skills important to success in college.

5. To provide instruction directed toward the development of skills in English, mathematics, and reading.

   Classroom and individual instruction is offered to students who demonstrate deficiency in one or more of these areas. Emphasis is on highly individualized instructional materials in order to obtain specific learning objectives. These objectives are identified and prescribed for each student. (See specific course offerings.)

6. To expose service personnel to college life and programs.

   Specific activities related to this objective include discussion of current issues of college life in the psychology-career previews course, and educational or academic counseling with individual participants according to their vocational interests.

7. To provide services to enable participants access to college and various vocational goals upon completion of the program.

A responsibility of the PREP staff is to provide a placement service which will afford each student the opportunity to attend college or to become oriented toward other vocational goals. The educational information library located at the college and the base, plus the services of counselors, are made available to the students.

Facilities

The program is conducted at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base. The facilities are as follows:

1. Two classrooms which accomodate approximately twenty students each.
2. An auto-tutorial lab containing study carrells, reading machines, tape recorders and film equipment, including projectors and screens.
3. Two offices to house the program director, secretary, and teachers.

Since a major importance is placed on the team relationship of the instructors and espirit de corps which staff develops among participants, the classrooms, office and lab facilities are in close physical proximity.

Instructional and Support Staff

Longview Community College staffs the program on the following basis:

1. Instructor-Co-ordinator (full time)
2. English Instructor (part time)
3. Math Instructor (part time)
4. Study Skills Instructor (part time)
5. Reading Instructor (part time)
6. Assistant (full time)

The PREP instructors work in a developmental program on Longview's campus as well.

Curriculum

The curriculum has been designed to allow for differential placement within each deficiency area. The approach in each course is an individualized one with some group instruction. The curriculum is described below:

Reading: Intensive diagnostic procedures are used to determine students' strengths and weaknessess, followed by an individually planned laboratory course which utilizes a variety of machines and programmed materials. Word attack methods, basic vocabulary, comprehension of ordinary reading material, rate improvement through the use of machines, programmed materials and tapes, all are incorporated to develop reading skills. In addition to reading machines, each student is given individual work in materials which give the student training and practice in reading for ideas, interpretation of various printed materials, and test-taking-all with the general goal of improving the students' comprehension of what they read. A combination is utilized of ORA Psychotecnics, and SRA Reading Development Labs, and Reading for Understanding, Listen and Read, Senior and Junior levels, plus instructor developed materials (vocabulary aids). A student advances at his own rate to improve vocabulary and comprehension of college material under the supervision of the reading specialist.

English: Fundamentals of Grammar and Composition concentrates on the principles of clearly stated and grammatically accurate sentences.

Punctuation, spelling and word usage, together with sentence structure, are stressed to teach the students enrolled to write clear, concise, coherent sentences. In turn, sentences are arranged into paragraphs and essays to logically and coherently express the writer's ideas. Emphasis is placed on purpose, organization, development, and clear-thinking.

Mathematics: Mathematical and Algebraic Operations.

The mathematics classes are structured to meet needs through a combination of individualized and group instruction. Depending upon objectives, students select from the following topics:

1. General problem solving (fractions, decimals, and practical application)
2. A basic course in algebra where the student will gain facility in applying algebra concepts and skills in working with fundamental operations, factoring, equations, graphs, exponents and radicals, and other algebraic functions.
3. GED preparation
4. Clep preparation

Psychology: Second Career Planning

The Psychology class has two functions: to help individuals find suitable vocations and to give an overview of the field of psychology.

Students are given a battery of tests, including: mechanical ability, vocational interest survey, aptitude questionnaires, personality tests, and other devices to aid the student to wisely select a career field. Information on job descriptions and opportunities are made available. In addition, individual and group counseling is conducted to aid in vocational choice and to enable each student to define educational goals and personal life objectives.

Study Skills

This course teaches those skills necessary for success in college work. To achieve this goal emphasis is placed on the mastery of the SQ4R technique as applied to: various types of texts; college level lectures; and, finally, techniques of taking objective and essay type examinations. In addition, attention is given to study techniques for different subjects, term paper research and writing, efficient study schedules, learning theories, and general reading and vocabulary improvement.